

For Release: Thursday, February 26, 2015

15-293-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/

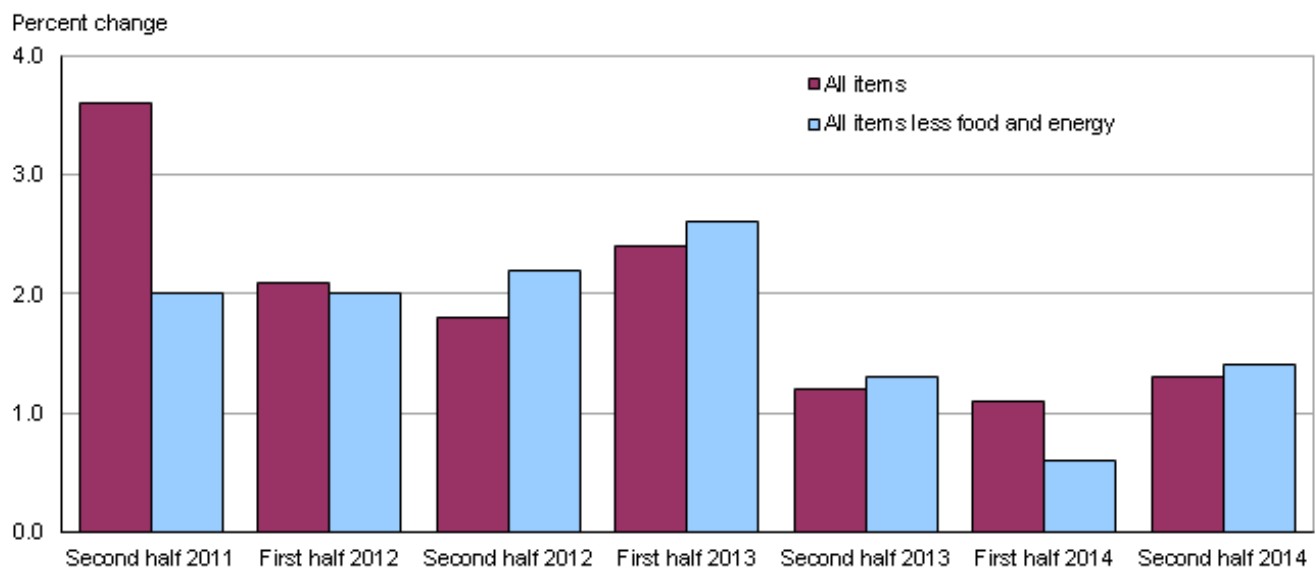
Media contact: (312) 353-1138 •

Consumer Price Index, Milwaukee-Racine – Second Half 2014

Local prices up 1.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Milwaukee-Racine area advanced 1.3 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the all items less food and energy index was 1.4 percent higher compared to its second half 2013 level as price increases were noted for several categories, most notably shelter. Food prices rose 2.0 percent over the year while the index for energy edged down 0.1 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Milwaukee, second half 2011–second half 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 2.0 percent over the year. Within the food category, the index for food at home (groceries) was 2.6 percent higher while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 1.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index was 0.1 percent lower from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014. Within the energy category, the indexes for electricity and utility (piped) gas service rose 1.3 percent and 13.6 percent, respectively, over the year. The index for gasoline was down 4.2 percent compared to its second half 2013 level.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index increased 1.4 percent over the year. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for shelter (1.7 percent), medical care (2.7 percent), and apparel (5.1 percent).

The first half 2015 Consumer Price Index for Milwaukee-Racine is scheduled to be released Wednesday, August 19, 2015 7:30am CT.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar.

Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only

measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The **Milwaukee-Racine, Wis.**, consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periodsMilwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items	224.705	228.005	227.634	1.3	-0.2
All items (1967=100).....	694.026	704.218	703.074	-	-
Food and beverages	241.920	243.557	246.447	1.9	1.2
Food	245.998	247.781	250.933	2.0	1.3
Food at home.....	241.233	242.601	247.484	2.6	2.0
Food away from home	253.221	256.070	257.135	1.5	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	203.361	203.568	203.922	0.3	0.2
Housing	207.139	212.466	210.342	1.5	-1.0
Shelter	249.815	252.134	254.004	1.7	0.7
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	232.625	235.507	237.544	2.1	0.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	266.109	268.077	270.185	1.5	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	266.109	268.077	270.185	1.5	0.8
Fuels and utilities.....	207.792	236.477	215.975	3.9	-8.7
Household energy.....	172.060	195.061	180.209	4.7	-7.6
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	176.369	200.253	184.790	4.8	-7.7
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	212.345	211.408	215.093	1.3	1.7
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	113.373	167.068	128.822	13.6	-22.9
Household furnishings and operations	100.011	100.983	97.674	-2.3	-3.3
Apparel.....	141.081	139.733	148.222	5.1	6.1
Transportation	204.525	207.165	200.973	-1.7	-3.0
Private transportation	196.199	200.282	194.467	-0.9	-2.9
Motor fuel.....	298.586	317.331	286.926	-3.9	-9.6
Gasoline (all types)	294.940	312.626	282.549	-4.2	-9.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	297.635	315.723	284.403	-4.4	-9.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	313.191	331.910	301.664	-3.7	-9.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	265.361	279.858	256.634	-3.3	-8.3
Medical care.....	470.608	476.116	483.239	2.7	1.5
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	114.881	115.546	115.694	0.7	0.1
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	150.173	151.100	152.817	1.8	1.1
Other goods and services	376.858	379.767	384.786	2.1	1.3
Commodity and service group					
All Items	224.705	228.005	227.634	1.3	-0.2
Commodities	183.087	184.846	184.130	0.6	-0.4
Commodities less food & beverages	155.583	157.340	155.273	-0.2	-1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	215.446	219.409	216.428	0.5	-1.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periodsMilwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Durables	101.834	101.878	100.599	-1.2	-1.3
Services	264.347	269.102	269.075	1.8	0.0
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	213.900	217.111	216.403	1.2	-0.3
All items less shelter	217.525	221.223	220.025	1.1	-0.5
Commodities less food	157.517	159.199	157.211	-0.2	-1.2
Nondurables	230.748	233.603	233.318	1.1	-0.1
Nondurables less food	214.413	218.022	215.291	0.4	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	292.890	300.740	298.545	1.9	-0.7
Services less medical care services	247.943	252.675	252.194	1.7	-0.2
Energy	229.299	250.869	229.022	-0.1	-8.7
All items less energy	226.391	227.687	229.855	1.5	1.0
All items less food and energy	223.994	225.214	227.228	1.4	0.9

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁴⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.